

HOUSE No. 2736

By Mr. Petersen of Marblehead, petition of Douglas W. Petersen and Cory Atkins for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of sports injuries to school children. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF A SPORTS INJURY COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
2 the contrary, there is hereby established a Sports Injury Commis-
3 sion to investigate and report on the incidence of sports injuries in
4 elementary, middle and high school children. Said commission
5 shall collect data of the types of sports injuries, frequency,
6 severity, identify high-risk sports, and long term impact of sports
7 injuries on young athletes, including but not limited to the rate
8 and type of eye, facial and head injuries incurred and the types of
9 sports most frequently associated with such injuries. The commis-
10 sion shall develop strategic and legislative recommendations to
11 reduce the incidence sports injuries including the mandatory use
12 of protective eye wear and/or headgear in all high-risk sports.

13 The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate
14 Chairs or the Joint Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as
15 co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the
16 Joint Committee of Education; the Commissioner of the Depart-
17 ment of Public Health or his designee; the Commissioner of the
18 Department of Education; and one representative from each of
19 the following organizations: the Massachusetts Society of Eye
20 Physicians and Surgeons; the Massachusetts Medical Society;
21 the Massachusetts College of Emergency Room Physicians; the
22 Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;
23 the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians; the Massachu-
24 setts Interscholastic Athletic Association; the Massachusetts

25 School Nurses Association; the Massachusetts Dental Society, the
26 Massachusetts Coaches Association and two high school students.
27 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its
28 recommendations and drafts of legislation with the clerks of the
29 Senate and House of Representatives on or before December 31,
30 2006.